

ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME

History:

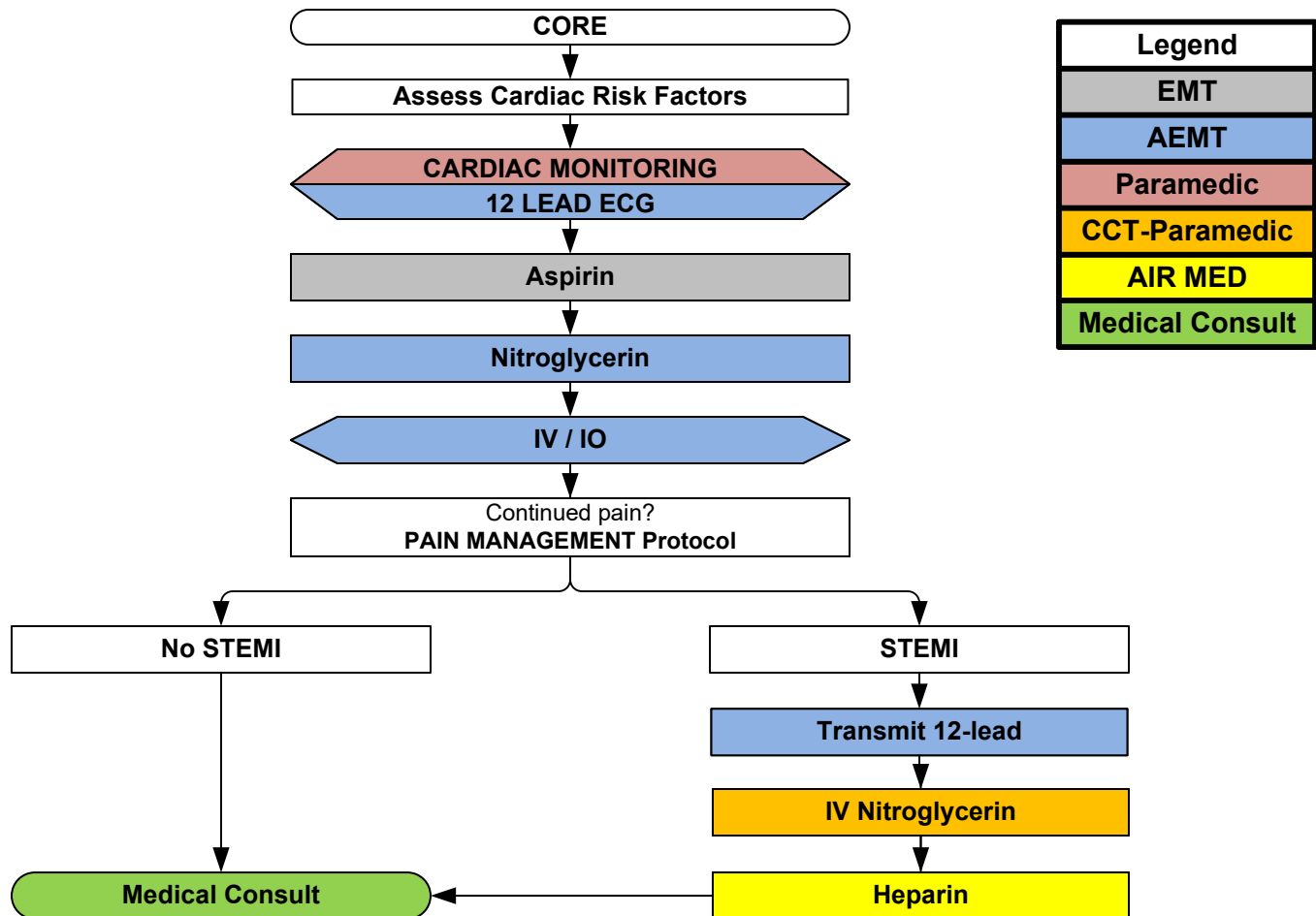
- Age
- Time (duration/ repetition)
- **Viagra, Levitra, Cialis** or other erectile dysfunction meds
- Past medical history (MI, Angina, Diabetes)
- Allergies
- Recent physical exertion
- SAMPLE
- Recent cocaine use

Signs and Symptoms:

- Chest Pain (pain, pressure, aching, vice-like tightness)
- Pale, diaphoresis
- Shortness of breath/cough
- Nausea, vomiting, dizziness
- Anginal equivalents
- Palliation/Provocation
- Quality (crampy, constant, sharp, dull, etc)
- Region/Radiation/Referred (substernal, epigastric, arm, jaw, neck, shoulder)
- Severity (1-10)

Differential:

- Angina vs. Myocardial infarction
- Pulmonary embolism
- Pericarditis
- Aortic dissection or aneurysm
- Asthma / COPD/Pneumonia
- Pneumothorax
- GERD/esophageal spasm
- Chest wall injury or pain
- Musculoskeletal pain



Pearls:

- Chest pain, or “discomfort”, is present in two out of three patients with acute myocardial ischemia/infarction. Atypical presentations (commonly seen in diabetics, females, and geriatric patients) include the following **anginal equivalents**: respiratory distress, syncope, unexplained weakness, diaphoresis, palpitations, epigastric pain, and nausea.
- Cardiac Risk Factors include: **Major**-tobacco (packs per day x years), hypertension, hyperlipidemia, genetics (mother, father, brother, or sister had MI or CABG prior to age 55), cocaine use, diabetes; **Minor**-obesity, male, physical inactivity, post-menopausal, age > 45
- Assess 12-lead ECG early – Goal within 10 minutes of patient contact.
- Avoid Nitroglycerin in any patient who has used Viagra, Levitra, Cialis, or other ED medications in the past 24-48 hours due to potential severe hypotension--contact medical control.
- NTG may be given prior to establishing an IV. NTG should be administered and continued, even in the absence of chest pain to decrease afterload.
- Treat life threatening arrhythmias per the appropriate protocol before initiating the Acute Coronary Syndrome protocol.
- Heparin is only available on Air Med. If Heparin is administered it is imperative that a proper handoff report be given to the receiving facility to verify they are aware of Heparin administration.